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HAN3DEHS Sentence	
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK	
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	
V.	14 CR 130 (LAP)
JAMAL DEHOYOS,	
Defendant.	
x	
	New York, N.Y. October 23, 2017
	10:00 a.m.
Before:	
HON. LORETTA A	. PRESKA,
	District Judge
APPEARAN	CES
JOON H. KIM	
Acting United States Attorney Southern District of New York LOUIS PELLEGRINO	
Assistant United States Attor	ney
MEGAN BENNETT Attorney for Defendant	
necomey for berendance	

THE COURT: United States v. Jamal Dehoyos. Is the government ready?

MR. PELLEGRINO: The government is ready, your Honor.

THE COURT: Good morning. Is the defense ready?

MS. BENNETT: Yes, your Honor. Good morning.

THE COURT: Ms. Bennett, have you and your client had adequate time to review the presentence report?

MS. BENNETT: We have, your Honor.

THE COURT: Is there any reason it should not be made part of the record?

MS. BENNETT: No, subject to the issues raised in the defense sentencing submission, we have no concerns about its admission.

THE COURT: Are there any objections to the presentence report?

MS. BENNETT: The defense objects to the calculation of Mr. Dehoyos's criminal history category with respect to the youthful offender adjudication, and as mentioned in the defense sentencing submission, there are I believe some inaccuracies, although I don't think those bear — they certainly don't bear on the offense conduct nor do they directly bear on the issue of the criminal history calculation. But to the extent they suggested that Mr. Dehoyos was being less than forthcoming during the presentence investigation report, I wanted to make sure the Court and the record reflected that there was

information in the presentence investigation report that was contradicted by evidence, such as Mr. Dehoyos's absence of a driver's license. The PSR says there was no record of that, and in fact as we submitted to the Court he does have a driver's license that was valid at the time of the presentence investigation interview.

And the issue of Mr. Dehoyos's second daughter which the presentence investigation report suggested he had intentionally withheld information about. There was a discussion of his relationship with that child's mother. And as noted in the materials handed up today, the belated proposed Exhibit N which is letters from the family, Mr. Dehoyos does have a relationship with that daughter.

THE COURT: And I note that the government in its sentencing memorandum notes that the parties had contemplated that the defendant's criminal history category would be III and his guidelines range would be 51 to 63 months.

MR. PELLEGRINO: That's correct, your Honor.

THE COURT: Anything else on that?

MS. BENNETT: Nothing from the defense, your Honor.

THE COURT: Very well then. With respect to the offense level computation, I accept the findings of the presentence report set forth at paragraphs 53 through 64, which conclude that a total offense level of 22 is appropriate.

With respect to the defendant's criminal history, I

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accept the agreement of the parties that Mr. Dehoyos has five criminal history points, based on three points for his June 14, 2007 conviction for criminal possession of a weapon, and his subsequent sentence on that conviction, as well as two points because the defendant committed the instant offense while on parole. As a result, the defendant's criminal history category is III, and his guidelines range is 51 to 63 months.

As I mentioned, I have the government's submission dated October 19, 2017. I have the defense submission dated October 10, 2017, together with the documents handed up this morning, the additional exhibits, the work report and the like.

Are there any more written materials I should be looking at?

MS. BENNETT: No, your Honor. I think this is probably incorporated with what you have as filed on October 10, 2017. But there were two additional exhibits to Mr. Dehoyos's sentencing submission that were submitted late. One on October 13, and one on October 19. And those are, if you go to the back of the packet of materials, you would find them as ECF document numbers 239-1 and 240-1.

THE COURT: Yes, ma'am.

MS. BENNETT: Okay.

THE COURT: Thank you.

MS. BENNETT: With the proposed Exhibit N that I submit today, which were letters of support from Mr. Dehoyos's

family and friends and then the most recent work reports, that's everything that the defense submitted in writing.

THE COURT: Yes, ma'am. Would you like to speak on behalf of Mr. Dehoyos.

MS. BENNETT: I would, thank you, your Honor. First for the record I would like to point out that a representative from the Focus Forward is in the audience.

I don't want to go over the chapter and verse of everything that was submitted in writing, but I do think this is — I know that this is an important proceeding for Mr. Dehoyos, and that this has been a monumental two years in the course of his life, and I would like to go over a few certain especially important points with respect to both his history and characteristics, the offense conduct, and then the conduct over the past the two years of incarceration.

Starting with Mr. Dehoyos's history and characteristics. I think there is no question that we all begin our lives at different starting lines, and Mr. Dehoyos began his life at a starting line I think none of us would want to see a child begin. He was born into a completely chaotic household. He was raised or he was supposedly raised by a street hustler father and a mother who was under the total domination of her husband. It was a house in which emotional and physical abuse was a constant and recurring normal cycle of events. It was a household in which both of his parents were

engaged in the drug trade. And it was a household in which at the age of just over 15, 16 years old, Mr. Dehoyos had his first contact with the criminal justice system.

And it was then -- I think of this as the turning point and I was reflecting on it when I was considering what happened in Jamal's life, and there was the time that I read Romeo and Juliet a thousand years ago, and there is the moment when Tybalt kills Mercutio, and it is that moment where everything changes. And had it not been for that moment, Romeo wouldn't have killed Tybalt and the Montagues and Capulets would not have embarked on the feud that ultimately resulted in the tragic end of the Shakespeare play.

And I think for Jamal's life, it may be that the outcome wouldn't have been the same had it not been for that arrest when he was 16. But it is that arrest when the police are in his home and there are guns in his mother's bedroom, and that's documented in I believe one of the exhibits that I submitted, and when he is standing there thinking about the mother who his father has constantly abused, the mother who for whatever failures she exhibited as a parent, is still the person, aside from his grandmother, to whom he is closest in his life. And he says that the guns are mine. And I'm not disputing that he took responsibility for those weapons, and I don't know enough to be able to even say that there was an issue about them being his weapons.

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But when you think about the fact that had it been two weeks earlier, he would have been in the juvenile justice system where he would have had access to an entirely different set of opportunities. And while he was adjudicated as a youthful offender, he was treated by his household and certainly at the time of the arrest as somebody who was far beyond his age and his experience. And I can't help but wonder what would have happened with the next 25 years had that moment been different.

And it certainly true that over the next 25 years he did exhibit a lack of respect for the public safety, for the public good. There was the drug sale that is reflected in his criminal record. There is attempted criminal sale of a controlled substance. There was I think probably most troubling the firearm incident, which was based on -- I offer this information not in any way to suggest that the public threat was diminished because of this, but to put it in context. It was a middle of the night dispute with an individual who was known by the police to be a neighborhood drug dealer. And I say that in order that the Court understand that Mr. Dehoyos is, while he has this history, he is not a person who has acted without consideration for the larger -this was not an act of random violence and he served a substantial sentence on that case.

But I think that it is, it is perhaps the part of

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Mr. Dehoyos's record that the Court might have the most concern with. But it is an isolated incident in the course of his 40 plus years.

THE COURT: Well, shooting at people --

MS. BENNETT: I understand.

THE COURT: -- is a fairly significant isolated incident.

MS. BENNETT: It is, it is. And I'm not quite sure -this is something that for two years Jamal and I have been talking about. I don't think there is anything to be added to what the Court has. I wanted to raise the factual context of the conviction not to suggest that shooting at a drug dealer is in any way acceptable behavior. But to explain what the series -- what -- what the context was of that event. And there is no, there is no way in which it can be explained or minimized.

If Mr. Dehoyos feels like speaking to it, he is a thoughtful and articulate and introspective individual. He could. But I believe that the record speaks for itself and in that case and he did accept responsibility. I know there was a recalcitrant witness. He promptly pleaded guilty in that case, irrespective of what the facts might have shown at trial.

And when I say it was isolated, I mean that this, he is not, he is not alleged to have been one of the individuals in this case who carried a firearm, who arranged for firearms.

And I just wanted to sort of separate out the 2006 incident from the current robbery conspiracy.

But I'd like to talk a little bit more about the past two years of Mr. Dehoyos's life which I think when considering the 3553(a) factors provide some guidance looking prospectively at what we can expect, as opposed to retrospectively at how he should be punished for his behavior.

I know the Court has sentenced several other co-defendants, but I believe the last one was some time ago although I'm not sure if Mr. Hardin has been sentenced yet.

In several of those cases, it appeared from the sentencing minutes that the plea agreement restricted — there was a provision in which defense counsel agreed not to ask for a variance under 3553(a), and the government at least in a couple of those sentencing proceedings pointed out on the record the reason for that is that the individuals' role in the conspiracy and the robbery was sufficiently serious they didn't believe 3553 variances would be justified, although obviously the Court always retains the discretion to fashion a sentence that is sufficient, but not greater than necessary.

Mr. Dehoyos's plea agreement didn't have that same restriction. I don't know if that was a change in the policy of the office, but it does suggest to me that the government recognizes that his role in this case was somewhat different than that of his co-defendants. The offense conduct here, the

Court obviously knows from having sentenced several of the co-defendants that the gravity of the offenses and the impact that those have had on several of the jewelry store owners Mr. Dehoyos was involved in the January 2013 robbery in Cranford, New Jersey.

His brother Tyrone, as the Court knows, had a much larger role in this case. The government says in its sentencing submission that Mr. Dehoyos had a individual relationship with John who is the leader. I think that's based entirely on Tyrone's relationship with Mr. Robinson and Tyrone and Jamal being siblings and living together from time to time there was some overlap between their acquaintances, but it is my understanding that Jamal Dehoyos's role in this crew was largely driven by his — by his relationship with his brother. Not that he didn't enter it of his own accord, but that he was introduced to this by his brother Tyrone.

The fact that he was in a car, the government says in its sentencing submission and describes, as I understand the conspiracy to have operated, that often John Robinson for example would be several steps removed from the individuals who were going into the stores, and the government mentions this in their sentencing submission here to point out that just because Jamal was in a car doesn't mean he had a relatively minor role. I would point out that John Robinson had a leadership enhancement in his case. John Robinson was the leader of this

organization. There is no allegation, and the government concedes there is no allegation that Jamal was anything other than involved in an individual incident. There is no suggestion that he was a leader or high up in this crew by any stretch. And that I think the fact he is in this vehicle and he is — I believe there was a state arrest in New Jersey of Tyrone and Jamal Dehoyos actually bailed out his brother there. And he was in the car, he was there to facilitate the January 2013 events. But his being in the car I don't think should suggest that he had a senior role in that January 2013 robbery.

And while there is a four-point enhancement here for the use of the sledge hammer, again that was — and Mr. Dehoyos did acknowledge understanding that force might have been used in the course of this robbery, again this is not, he is not an individual who wielded the sledge hammer or who was involved in procuring it in this case. His role was closer to that of Kendall Thompson. I'm sorry. Actually I think it was closer to Terrell Ratliff. He was also involved in an individual robbery. And I believe there was the use of a sledge hammer in that individual robbery. There was no, I don't believe there was a weapon enhancement in his case. But I think the facts of his robbery are sort of the most closely analogous to the robbery in which Mr. Dehoyos was involved.

I would just briefly like to talk about what Jamal has

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done over the past two years if the Court will indulge me a few more moments.

I don't think it can be easy being on the edge of 40 and facing a substantial prison sentence. And it certainly can't be easy under Jamal's circumstances, given the loss of his grandmother who was the only stable influence in his life, shortly before his incarceration here. Given the role that his brother had in this case, of which he was keenly aware, and I think for somebody of his background, we might have expected a different adjustment to incarceration.

From the moment that he arrived at the MCC, he, he has shown himself to be a good citizen, he's shown himself to be committed to his rehabilitation, and I think most importantly, he's shown himself to be committed to the betterment of his peers there and of the environment in general.

He completed, as the Court knows, he completed the Focus Forward program. Mr. Neeling is here now. participated in almost more programs than I knew existed at the He joined the Moth Community Storytelling program. beautiful feedback from the organizers of the storytelling program, Cindy Freeman who ran his group tried very, very hard to be here, and was told as she had been told by prison personnel originally she couldn't write a letter on his behalf. She was told she can't appear here. And the last communication I had from her was this morning where she said made one last

effort and told she couldn't be here because of the concern she would have the appearance of bias in any future -- at any future groups that she was leading.

But Jamal's dedication, his commitment, his enthusiasm, were evident to everybody with whom he was involved in these programs. I think that what is most, to me what emblemizes the past two years was his role in the inmate companion program. And there is the letter from another inmate at the MCC that talks about how helpful Jamal was when this individual felt like there was no hope at all. And that Jamal was able to help him see hope in his own life, which I think Jamal can only do if he recognized there was hope in his own life.

And again, for somebody with his background and at his age to believe in a future requires a deep commitment, and a leap of faith almost in some ways. But I think through the his good acts he has shown himself that he has the potential to live outside the prison system the way he has lived for the past two years. Jamal's daughter also in the audience now.

THE COURT: Good morning.

MS. BENNETT: And cousin Evelyn is here as well and Mr. Dehoyos's cousin Evelyn is seated next to Ms. Dehoyos. The warden in this case, the warden at the MCC wrote a letter to the Court. I can't tell you how long I've been trying to get them to provide the letter. And it was the tenacity and

persistence of Mr. Dehoyos really prompted that. Officer
Hodges whose letter I submitted to the Court, also had asked to
be here today and was told by Adam Johnson we would have to
submit a Touhy letter and an executed subpoena which I
provided, but Adam Johnson never responded to me. But Officer
Hodges, who I met with in person when he wrote and signed the
letter that was submitted to the Court told me that Jamal was
instrumental not just in that incident detailed in Officer
Hodge's letter but generally as a citizen of 9 South. He is an
elder statesman who has been able to provide the younger men
with whom he is living some sense of how you can mature and how
you can have hope to live a life on the outside that is
productive, that is collaborative, that is law abiding.

I was moved, especially, by the comments in the Moth letter about how he was — had the insight to reflect upon the good in his background. And in his childhood there was very little but he could extract the good from Susana who taught him how to cook, that he was going to have to take care of himself. As Focus Forward said he was willing to open up and make himself vulnerable in a way that had a ripple effect on all the other participants in that class. He never made excuses for his past. He was enthusiastic, he was questioning, he was curious, he has explored the drive change. He has a plan to work in the food services industry as soon as he is able to. As soon as he is released from custody.

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I think one of the things that has been really hard about this case is that Tyrone, in addition to whatever sense of betrayal he may have given Tyrone's role in the case, there was also the hope that Jamal was going to start this food truck and that he was going to do with that the proceeds of the sale of the family home, and those proceeds had been distributed differently than he had believed they would. But despite that, he has still remained hopeful. And he has shared that hope with his fellow inmates. He has demonstrated that he can take that optimism, that commitment, that insightfulness, that understanding of his past, and he can channel that into a positive ventures and he's done that for the past two years. He is committed to continuing it do that in the future, and I think the question then is what sentence beyond what he has already served will accomplish the goals of 3553. Will be sufficient, but not greater than necessary, to accomplish those goals.

And I would suggest that a sentence proposed in the defense letter of 24 months is serious, reflects his role in this case, and his particular offense conduct and also takes into account his substantial good deeds. His herculean efforts at rehabilitation. His commitment to his community, to his neighbors, to his friends and to his family. Thank you, your Honor.

THE COURT: One concern I have, counsel, about your

suggestion is I think it would result in Mr. Dehoyos's being released pretty soon. Often BOP suggests a period in a community confinement center to allow an individual to transition back to society. And I wonder if given the history here that's not something that might be useful.

MS. BENNETT: I think that's an excellent point. And I think in the judgment and commitment order if the sentence were to specifically sentence Mr. Dehoyos to such a facility, that that would be a useful and appropriate transition from incarceration to a return to society.

My concern with adding a sentence with additional time is that in my experience, at least, bureau of prisons doesn't necessarily, even though we expect them and they sometimes do, place an individual with six months or so of incarceration left into a community housing facility or a halfway house. That is not always the case. And I've had more success in the placements if the sentence itself directs that the sentence should be placement in a community housing center, and I would say that's something that would match what we might expect the bureau of prisons to transition an individual to at the end of their sentence would be appropriate, which I think would be sometimes I think it is sometimes six months, sometimes a little bit longer.

THE COURT: Thank you.

MS. BENNETT: Thank you, Judge.

THE COURT: Mr. Dehoyos, would you like to speak on your own behalf.

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

THE DEFENDANT: Good morning, first of all, your Honor.

THE COURT: Good morning, sir.

THE DEFENDANT: I would like to apologize to the jewelry store owner, the Martin Jewelry Store. I definitely, I'm greatly sorry for what I've done and with the part I played in that role of that jewelry store robbery.

I also would like to apologize to my daughter for not being a good father. Being in and out of prison my whole life. You know. And I definitely want to thank Grant for being here today. Thanks. You know.

Your Honor, I been in and out of prison for all my life. For as long as I can remember this is the life I knew. It took me to be 42 years old to come to MCC to realize it is not the right way to live. I went down the wrong path. I was taught the wrong way. And I changed. I felt that I changed being at MCC for the better. I changed now like I never changed before or any time I ever did prison time, it was never, it was never a change in me. It took me to come here to realize that I'm 41 years old and I'm in front of a judge again. You know, my life in her hands. And I feel like I did

rehabilitate this time. I can't say that, you know, my part in this crime was as heavy as the other guys or whatever the case may be but I did, I was there. I shouldn't have been there.

You know.

But sometimes, it's just, I guess it was family, money that drove me to do the things that I have done in the past.

And now, learning from that mistake that I did was a great mistake, I would never do it again. I would never, you know, submit myself to fall for the root of evil which is money or even helping out a family member. With that I say, you know, I'm sorry for what I did. Thank you.

THE COURT: Thank you, sir. Does the government wish to be heard?

MR. PELLEGRINO: No, thank you, your Honor. We're happy to rest on our submission unless the Court has any questions.

THE COURT: Thank you. Counsel, as you know, I have calculated the guidelines and certainly take them into account.

The total offense level in my view accurately reflects the nature and circumstances of the offense. With respect to the defendant's history and characteristics, as counsel has talked about both in the sentencing submission and today, Mr. Dehoyos did not have a lot going for him coming into this situation. On the other hand, counsel has pointed out and his words make clear, that he has a great deal of remorse about

this situation, and has in his words been rehabilitated. For that reason, I find that the guidelines sentence that is prescribed is greater than what is necessary to promote the sentencing factors.

With respect to the paragraph 2 factors, certainly an incarceratory sentence is required to reflect the seriousness of the offense, but in this instance, the guideline sentence prescribed as I've mentioned is greater than what is necessary. Certainly some period of incarceration is required for public deterrence. I am persuaded, however, in light of Mr. Dehoyos's work since he has been incarcerated, that significantly more incarceration is not required to protect the public from further crimes of this defendant. The paragraph D factors of educational or vocational training are less important here.

I have in mind the paragraph 3, 4, and 5 factors. With respect to paragraph 6, the need to avoid unwarranted sentencing disparities, in this instance, I think everybody is in agreement that among these defendants, Mr. Dehoyos's role was probably the least significant. Also, the extraordinary rehabilitation that Mr. Dehoyos has demonstrated will make any perceived disparity one that is warranted.

Taking all of these factors into account, counsel, it is my intention to impose a sentence of 24 months' incarceration, followed by three years of supervised release, with a special condition of six months in a halfway house. It

is also my intention to adopt the other suggested special conditions of outpatient substance abuse treatment, the search condition, not incurring credit charges unless in compliance with the installment payment schedule, and providing the probation officer access to requested financial information.

It is also my intention to impose the restitution amount of \$36,000, jointly and severally. It is also my intention to impose the mandatory \$100 special assessment.

Counsel, is there any reason why such a sentence should the not be imposed?

MR. PELLEGRINO: No, your Honor.

MS. BENNETT: No, your Honor.

THE COURT: Very well, then. Mr. Dehoyos.

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, ma'am.

months' incarceration. Following that time, you'll spend a period of three years on supervised release. During the period of supervised release, you'll comply with all of the standard terms and conditions of supervised release. Among them are that you not commit another federal, state or local crime; you not illegally possess a controlled substance; and you not possess a firearm or other destructive device.

In addition to those and all of the other standard terms and conditions of supervised release, during that time you'll spend a period of six months in a halfway house, and of

course you'll comply with all of the terms and conditions of that are applicable there.

In addition, sir, during that period, you'll participate in an outpatient treatment program for substance abuse, as approved by the probation officer. That program will include testing to determine whether you've gone back to the use of drugs. The Court authorizes the release of available drug treatment evaluations and reports, including the presentence investigation report, to the substance abuse treatment provider as approved by the probation officer. Sir, you might be required to pay some, or all, of the costs of that program, depending on your ability to pay and the availability of third-party payment.

In addition, sir, during that period, you'll submit your person, residence, place of business, vehicle, and any other property or electronic devices under your control to a search on the ground that the probation officer has reasonable suspicion that contraband or evidence of a violation of the terms and conditions of your release may can be found there. Such a search must be conducted at a reasonable time and in a reasonable manner. Failure to submit to such a search might be grounds for revoking your supervised release. It will be your obligation to inform other residents of the premises or users of the electronic devices that they might be subject to a search under this condition.

In addition, sir, during that period, you'll provide the probation officer with access to any requested financial information, and you'll also will not incur any new credit charges or open any additional lines of credit, without the approval of the probation officer unless you're in compliance with the installment payment schedule.

As I mentioned earlier, restitution in the amount of \$36,000 is imposed jointly and severally with the other co-defendants. Payments will begin no later than one month following your release from incarceration. Payments will be made in amounts no smaller than 10 percent of your gross monthly income. Payments shall be made to the Clerk of the Court, United States District Court, Southern District of New York, 500 Pearl Street, New York, New York, 10007. From time to time, the clerk of the court shall disburse payments to Martin Jewelers, 12 N Avenue W, Cranford, New Jersey, 07016, attention Ellen Ramer, owner. With the re line of your name and the docket number of this case, S4 14 CR 130. Payments should be made monthly.

Finally, sir, I must impose and do impose the mandatory \$100 special assessment. And that should be paid promptly.

It is my duty to inform you that unless you've waived it, you have the right to appeal this sentence. And you might have the right to the appeal in forma pauperis, which means as

a poor person, with the waiver of certain fees and expenses. 1 2 Counsel, is there anything further? 3 MR. PELLEGRINO: The government moves to dismiss any 4 open counts, your Honor. 5 THE COURT: So ordered. 6 MS. BENNETT: Nothing, your Honor. Just one question 7 on restitution. Would it be possible to order that that begin 8 one month after Mr. Dehoyos is released from community housing? 9 Only that there may be some restrictions on his movement that 10 might interfere with gainful employment during that time. 11 THE COURT: One month after your release, sir, from 12 the halfway house. 13 THE DEFENDANT: All right. 14 MS. BENNETT: Thank you, your Honor. 15 THE COURT: Anything else? 16 MS. BENNETT: Nothing further. 17 THE COURT: Mr. Dehoyos, you sound like a changed man. 18 You've certainly persuaded me. Don't embarrass counsel and 19 don't embarrass your daughter by coming back here. 20 THE DEFENDANT: I won't, your Honor. 21 THE COURT: All right. Sir, you can come and visit 22 any time you want, but I don't want to see you sitting at that 23 table again. 24 THE DEFENDANT: Okay. No problem.

THE COURT: All right. You have a wonderfully

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beautiful daughter. And now go out and make her proud. Thank you, counsel, thank you for your assistance. MS. BENNETT: Thank you, Judge. MR. PELLEGRINO: Thank you, your Honor. (Adjourned)